



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Employees Caught Smuggling Contraband into Baltimore City Detention Center over the Weekend

Cell phone and tobacco found in employee's tuna salad

TOWSON, MD (June 18, 2008)---The efforts of a contract dietary worker and a Correctional Officer from the Baltimore City Detention Center to introduce contraband into the institution were halted this past weekend due to dedicated awareness by entrance staff. A cell phone, cigarette lighters, tobacco and suspected marijuana are among the items confiscated.

The Maryland Division of Pre-Trial Detention and Services (DPDS), as well as their sister correctional facilities under the Division of Correction, have diligently stepped up their efforts to intercept contraband *before* it reaches the inmates' hands. Trade and sale of such items by inmate populations is often the cause of violence within facilities.

"Safety is a priority of the Division and that safety begins at the front entrance of our institutions," stated DPDS Commissioner Howard Ray, "we are constantly encouraging entrance staff to question anything that seems out of the ordinary." Although not a rare or massive find, this interception is evidence of attention to detail, and an effort by the Division to remove employees who cultivate such acts.

The first attempt, made on Saturday, June 14th by a Correctional Officer, was stopped during a routine search of the officer's property as she reported for work. Several lighters, over a 1/2lb of tobacco, rolling paper, a Bluetooth earpiece and suspected marijuana were uncovered upon thorough inspection of a shopping bag. On Sunday, June 15th, a dietary worker, an employee of the Division's food service contractor, attempted to pass through security with a cell phone and tobacco hidden inside her lunch container under tuna salad. The keen eye of the officers conducting the searches undoubtedly prevented the entrance of the contraband.

Both employees will face possible termination from the Division, as well as criminal charges for Contraband Delivery, the penalty for which is three years and/or a \$1,000 fine.

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